

Dordt College

TheDiamond

In this Issue

Yik Yak. Good or bad?	Pg 2
Student films released	Pg 3
New faces on campus	Pg 4
Columnists	Pg 5
XC runs at National Meet	Pg 6
New Gallery Exhibit	Pg 7
Dordt Secret Admirers	Pg 8

Students rally to raise funds and cut hair

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

Thanks to you, Professor DeRoo, Professor Cosgrove, Pastor Baart, and Rocklyn Mouw are bald. More importantly, eighteen Liberian children who were orphaned by Ebola will have a family and a place to call home.

The One Cut fundraiser was a “God-given idea,” said Dordt junior Marissa LeDuc. “A member of the 2014 Liberia AMOR team felt that it was something that God just put in their head with the idea that all it would take is \$10 from each student and faculty from Dordt’s campus.”

LeDuc came up with the name One Cut because the project asks people to make a “one-time cut in their budget.” In addition, “we are going to give one big haircut to those 4 gentlemen.” The four volunteers were selected because of their significance on campus and their “significant hair.”

The One Cut project is organized by One Body One Hope (OBOH), a bi-national, non-profit organization that partners with a network of non-denominational churches called Abide in the Vine Disciples Church, which are located all throughout Liberia, and an orphanage called Christ Our Hope, which is located in Monrovia, Liberia.

Abide in the Vine Disciples Church has selected Pastor Abraham Howard, the lead pastor of the congregation in Foya, Lofa County, to lead the establishment of the



Professors Cosgrove and De Roo, senior Rocklen Mouw, and Pastor Aaron Baart received a fresh buzz after Dordt students raised over \$18,000 for One body, One Hope.

Contributed Photo

orphanage.

“He and his wife will travel to Monrovia to receive training at Christ Our Hope Orphanage, where 60 kids, sponsored by One Body One Hope currently live and receive schooling and discipleship,” said Baart.

The \$15,000 raised by the Dordt community will be used to cover the initial capital cost of constructing the orphanage home.

“The orphanage will be supported longer-

term by a child sponsorship program, like the one already in existence under One Body One Hope (OBOH) for Christ Our Hope,” said Baart. “This is a \$40 per month sponsorship program which covers the cost of food, education, medical care, etc.”

The orphanage constructed by the One Cut project will be unusual because the orphanage home leaders will live with the children.

Continued on page 2

“Red Light, Green Light” showing held on campus

Megean De Graaf - Staff Writer

On Monday, December 8, the documentary “Red Light Green Light” was shown at Dordt College. It took place in the science building in room 1606.

The film journeys through ten countries that are considering legalizing prostitution.

“Red Light Green Light” is about sex trafficking, specifically involving children, around the world. It has become a bigger and bigger problem, with numbers of children sold into sex slavery increasing nearly every year.

The film told the story of women who were a part of sex trafficking during their

youth. The women reflect back on the fear and pain caused by this childhood trauma.

“Sex trafficking is a booming business, and slavery is far from abolished,” said filmmaker Michelle Brock. In October of 2006, she and her husband Jay attended a leadership conference and ended up staying to watch a documentary on trafficking.

She was enraged by what she saw. Her frustration eventually led her to begin an awareness campaign in her home province of Ontario, Canada. This campaign soon became the organization Hope for the Sold, which attempts to raise awareness of trafficking. Later, she and her husband created the

Continued on page _

Dordt Career Services holds #25DaysofJobs

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

MKK Engineers, Van Belle Nursery and Click Rain are a taste of the diverse companies featured in the Dordt Career Services twitter event, 25 Days of Jobs. During this christmas season, career services will count down the days on twitter.

“We give the gift of one job and one company for every day,” career development coordinator Sarah Moss said.

The twitter campaign involves multiple posts throughout the day. Post subjects range from available job positions to any events that employees are involved with, facts and other interesting tidbits about the company. Career Services staff members want to share the culture of the company and the benefits of being an employee of the company.

Another goal of 25 Days of Jobs is to foster relationships between students and these companies.

“We want to get students excited for what these companies are doing,” Moss said. “And get companies excited for what Dordt students can do for them.”

Career services promotes a variety of companies to appeal to students of all



majors. In the first week, 25 Days of Jobs included an engineering firm, a plant nursery and an online marketing firm.

“We want students to gain a better understanding of what’s out there for jobs,” Moss said.

Most of the companies highlighted have some Dordt affiliation. Companies may have been started by Dordt grads or have multiple alumni working there.

Every Friday until Christmas is Festive Friday on the Career Center twitter page. The first person to answer a trivia question related

Continued on page 2



Yik Yak app evokes mixed responses

Alli Young - Guest Writer

Social media has once again proven its progressive nature with the surge in popularity of an anonymous messaging app called Yik Yak.

“I think it’s a really interesting experiment in communication and in getting people news and media in a way that Twitter isn’t,” said Dordt English Professor Luke Hawley. “It’s kind of the best and worst of small-town living. Everybody knows everybody’s business, except with Yik Yak, you don’t know whose business it is.”

College campuses across the nation have experienced a barrage of controversial student behavior on Yik Yak. Even at small, Christian colleges like Dordt, students have been flooding this novel social media with their thoughts. Joking. Bullying. Complaining. Celebrating. Venting. The occasional prayer request or hookup attempt. Yik Yak has it all.

For example, this Dordt yak generated 97 upvotes and 13 comments: “To all the out-of-Iowa folks. The weather right now is a blessing. Be glad it’s not snowing. Or raining.

Or tornado-ing.”

Bashing on nearby rival Northwestern College and cluing in the Friday night party hotspots circulate as some of the most popular topics of this underground network.

Due to excessive waves of cyber-bullying and negativity, school administrators have contemplated blocking students from its usage through the Wi-Fi.

Dordt administration has taken no action as of now.

“I think it would be in some way anti-reformational,” Hawley said. “I mean, the idea of reformational thinking is that we can work to change things for the better. So can Yik Yak be redeemed? I would hope so.”

Not all students are fond of Yik Yak, though. While they may not want the app to be blocked from their usage, they still dislike the negativity and distractions it brings to their lives.

“It gives people an easy way to get away with whatever they want to say about the campus itself and people on campus,” said Dordt sophomore Tanya Thalen. “You can’t say names, but you can give pretty good,

detailed descriptions, so you know who’s being talked about. I don’t think it’s necessary. It just adds more aspects for people to get bullied online and through social media.”

Tyler Droll and Brooks Buffington, graduates of Furman University in Greenville, SC, collaborated to develop Yik Yak after learning how to code iPhone apps in class together. Six months after its release in November 2013, Yik Yak had earned a spot as the 20th most downloaded social media app in the United States. Yik Yak is currently taking its “spread the word to grow the herd” motto seriously in its Ride the Yak 2014 Fall Campus Tour of 36 U.S. colleges.

This highly monitored, adult-only app uses a smartphone’s GPS-determined location to limit its range of users to a 10-mile radius. Middle schools, high schools, U.S. Federal government institutions and airports have been blocked from access to Yik Yak through a technology called geofencing. Any yaks containing people’s names will be deleted.

Although outsiders are not allowed to participate in other communities’ conversations, they may still “peek” at what’s trending. For instance, here on Dordt’s campus, users may view yaks posted near Michigan State University or Boston College with the upvote, downvote and comment options disabled.



Despite all of its criticisms, Hawley thinks Yik Yak might have more potential to build communities than any other form of social media.

“I wonder what it would look like if people were more intentional about it and if they were using it to build community instead of just to tell bad jokes,” Hawley said. “What would happen then? Then it might be a really useful tool.”

VanTol meets special needs in Nicaragua

Hannah DeVries - Staff Writer

Assistant professor of education Kathleen VanTol may have traveled to Nicaragua many times since she started teaching at Dordt five years ago, but as she prepares to head south once more, her plans are a little different.

Instead of simply working with Tesoros de Dios (a school for children with special needs) and performing workshops there as she has in past trips to Nicaragua, VanTol plans to spend much more time traveling around the country. Even though a law was passed which requires schools to include children with disabilities, the teaching staff in many schools are not trained in how to include these students.

This is where VanTol stepped in. “As I continued to return to Nicaragua to do workshops for teachers and schools, the Ministry of Education (MINED) for Nicaragua became very interested in my work and began attending my workshops,” said VanTol. Eventually, “MINED asked me if I would return to help schools implement inclusion throughout the country.”

Traveling to schools and training teachers may seem like a small gesture, but this is a great step for education in Nicaragua. Each school in Nicaragua has been assigned a facilitator to help implement the inclusion of special needs students, but it is VanTol who will be training each and every facilitator for the country. Some of the schools that VanTol has been working with have also agreed to be

model schools for the rest of the country, and serve as host sites for the training work.

“I will be consulting either weekly or biweekly (depending on where the school is located) with their staff,” said VanTol. “I also plan to work closely with the facilitators and visit their schools to help support staff as they implement this programming.”

In the end, VanTol’s goal is to do much more than educate. She hopes to open doors for children with special needs who have the desire to learn at their local schools. “There are very few schools like Tesoros de Dios for children with special needs, and these schools cannot meet the great need that exists,” said VanTol. In fact, even children who go to this school can only attend for a couple hours twice a week, since there aren’t enough resources to give more time than this to any one child.

“However,” said VanTol, “If more of these children could be included in their local schools, then they could receive education every day. This would also free up time in programs like Tesoros de Dios to meet the needs of other students.”

To VanTol, special education in Nicaragua doesn’t have to become an exact replica to the schools and methods in the United States. “My job is to share the best practices with them, but I also need to respect the culture of education in Nicaragua. The Teachers in Nicaragua need to determine the best way to implement these practices within the culture of their schools.”

One Cut (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The leaders will not “function merely as orphan home directors but truly as parents,” said Baart. “They have a carefully-selected support staff to help with laundry, security, food, and schooling.”

Because Liberia does not have any internal foster or adoptive government programs, local churches must take leadership in this area.

The One Cut event is primarily about raising funds to help people who are dealing with the repercussions of Ebola, specifically the children who have lost their families. “But in addition to this, we want to give individuals on campus an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves, to recognize what we can do as a whole when we all make a small contribution, and even more so, recognize what God can do with this beautiful opportunity,” said LeDuc.

“One Body One Hope is committed to long-term redevelopment of Liberia by investing in the next generation of leaders,” said Baart. “We believe that the children within our program will be given the necessary education, discipleship, and opportunities to be exactly that!”

Though the One Cut fundraiser is done, Dordt students can continue to be involved in One Body One Hope by following OBOH on twitter, liking its Facebook page, signing up for emails and newsletters, and visiting the blog.

“All these tools will highlight opportunities to become a child sponsor, or give toward the many other projects One Body One Hope is a part of right now: church planting, radio ministry, farming, school construction, orphan care, the global church partnership program, or community redevelopment efforts,” said Baart.

#25DaysofJobs (cont.)

Continued from page 1

to the featured company will win a prize. Junior, Brett Rozenboom won the first giveaway on December 12th, which consisted of products from The Wine Group. The gifts and the trivia question will continue to be related to the featured company.

The list of 25 companies is set, but the posts aren’t finalized. Because of the scope of 25 days of jobs, the Career Services staff members want to keep the information relevant to the day.

In response to 25 Days of Jobs, two companies, Interstates and the

Chicago Tribune have contacted Career Services through twitter to promote their job opportunities.

The posts for 25 days of jobs will continue after the semester ends, and so will the Career Services’ support for Dordt students. Even over Christmas break, local students can schedule in-person meetings with Career Services and students can send in resumes for review and get help via email.

The 25 Days of Jobs posts can be found with the hashtag, #25daysofjobs or from the Dordt Career Services twitter page at twitter.com/ DCCareerCenter.

News

Digital media projects hit the big screen

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Three teams. Three films. One deadline.

The new equipment that the Digital Media Department purchased this previous summer, including cameras, a new greenscreen, a Go-Pro and new lights, has been put to work this semester. The ones to really utilize this equipment were two independent study groups and the short film production class.

Director Nathan Walter, producer Kaylie Ogle, director of photography James Newhouse, director of photography Dan Woudenbergh and editor Lance Wunderink made up the short film production crew.

“The Confession is a psychological thriller about a young detective trying to crack a convict who allegedly killed three people. It deals with concepts of revenge, personal justification, and the nature of evil. I think it very powerfully speaks against many popular films of today like Taken or Bourne that justify mass killings for the sake of a personal vendetta,” said junior Nathan Walter.

“The coolest experience for me and my whole team was the cemetery shoot. We spent five hours outside in the cold, snow, and wind to capture a 24 second shot – and it was awesome! We were able to simulate a sweeping crane move with a big electrician’s lift, and we had a real coffin and hearse and extras there too! It was an incredible experience!” Walter said.

One of the independent study films consists of Eli Anderson and Abby Louwerse. Their film is titled Tara, a story based on the book of Esther.

“The story is about a woman who gets out of a bad romantic situation by being selected to be the 1st lady of her country, but then finds that she may be killed because of her association with less than great characters in her past. Abby and I hope to one-day make a feature length film of the story of Esther and other books of the Bible. This video is the last 6 minutes of the potential full-length film,” said Anderson.

The second independent study film consists of Daryl Bruinsma and Megan Kaiser. They created a short music video to an original song by Jerusha Pimentel. Her song is titled Tyger & Lamb.

“One cool feature of our music video this semester was the use of slow motion for Jerusha’s vocals. To create slow motion we shot the video at a high frame rate, like 60 frames per second and then slowed it down to the regular 24 frames per second. To accommodate the slow motion we sped up the song and played it twice as fast at the shoot,” said Bruinsma.

“I found it very easy to do some of the more bizarre things, like changing in and out of outfits a dozen times, and singing in double speed,” Pimentel said. “We had met beforehand to discuss what they were



Daryl Bruinsma and Megan Kaiser host the premier for their music video for Jerusha Pimentel's song Tyger & Lamb

Contributed Photo

envisioning for the video, and there was a part where they wanted it to be in slow motion, but with my lips singing the song in real time. In order to do that I had to sing the song double-speed while they were recording. They sped the song up for me already, but it was hard not to laugh while recording. It sounded somewhat like one of the chipmunks singing to an eerie mariachi strum. It was hilarious.”

“We had Professor Drissell’s daughter Natalee in our video,” Bruinsma said. “Working with a child actress was kind of a daunting idea at first, but in the end it worked out really well. She was comfortable

with being in front of the camera. She was a natural.”

All three of the teams utilized the basement of Kuyper for one scene or more. “It was just easy to manipulate the area into the way we wanted it to look,” said junior Kaylie Ogle.

All-nighters weren’t out of the question in the final week before the three premieres.

“Gratefully, the film shoots went very smoothly and without any painful mistakes or issues,” said Walter.

The films premiered to Dordt audiences the last week of the semester.

“Red Light, Green Light” (cont.)

Continued from page 1

“Red Light Green Light” documentary.

About a million children are reported to have been trafficked every year in the United States alone. Sometimes the children are forced to travel to a foreign country to become a slave, working in a plantation. Other times they are told that they must work as prostitutes or they would be killed.

Child trafficking is even worse in other countries. “Red Light Green Light” aims to shed light on this worldwide problem and hopes to help raise awareness to find some kind of hope in the distress.

Slavery is not as big of a problem here in the United States because there are labor unions and child labor laws. However, many

other countries still struggle with children being forced to work for little to no pay in terrible conditions.

Many trafficked children—and even adults—are not only forced to work, but are sold into prostitution as well. The film mentions that some people view prostitution as a line of work that is perfectly acceptable for a woman: though she may not like the work, she is making money, and that is all that matters.

The film takes a different perspective.

“To be bought and sold is horrible...” said one woman interviewed in the documentary. No one should to be treated like an object. The film wrestles with this as it discusses the big question: how can we prevent sex trafficking?



The group of Social Work students who hosted the showing

Photo by Eli Anderson

Vande Griend gets cheesy

Amanda Oberman - Guest Writer

It started again. Yelling, jumping and laughing. Her voice rose and her grin spread with each second. Another crumpled up \$5 bill had made its way into her water buffalo fund.

Dordt College junior Anna Vande Griend wants to start a water buffalo farm.

Born and raised on a dairy farm, Vande Griend harbors a passion for dairy like her father, David, and aspires to make water buffalo cheese.

“It’s in his blood, and I guess it’s mine too,” Vande Griend said.

Water buffalo appealed to her because they are considered exotcic, and she enjoys being different.

Different, but not so different. In fact, water buffalo milk is what the first mozzarella cheese was made in Italy. According to Vande Griend, the water buffalo’s milk high fat content make people prefer the taste of the water buffalo mozzarella over regular cow mozzarella.

“Once you go buffalo, you never go back,” Vande Griend said.

Last year, Vande Griend started making cheese after her aunts encouraged her to try making an easy cheese during their Christmas party. Not only did she make cheese, but she made cheese that had her cousins craving more.

Now, she makes every cheese from Gouda to cottage cheese in her East Campus apartment at Dordt.

One Saturday afternoon, Vande Griend flips through her cheese-making book and

decides to make Gouda. She turns up her Spotify playlist consisting of pop and rock songs on her computer as she waits patiently for the water to heat to 90 degrees.

Once the water is properly heated, she puts in the renin, which makes the milk separate. The cheese becomes a mass of curd as the renin sets.

“It looks like milk, but then you tip it, and it’s solid. And it’s kinda gross, but it’s awesome,” Vande Griend said.

It’s an interesting combination of liquid and solid that she loves to show off.

Next, Vande Griend cuts the curd into squares and drains the whey to allow the curd to dry. Vande Griend has made a mess. Cooking utensils are strewn about. Water and cheese byproducts puddle on the surfaces surrounding her.

A wooden cheese press is used after the curd reaches the correct temperature. Nothing elaborate, and something that has a tendency to tilt, a potential problem if generally uniform-looking cheese is desired.

Continued on page 4

SHE'S THE ONE
CAN YOU LIVE WITHOUT HER?
...ENOUGH SAID!

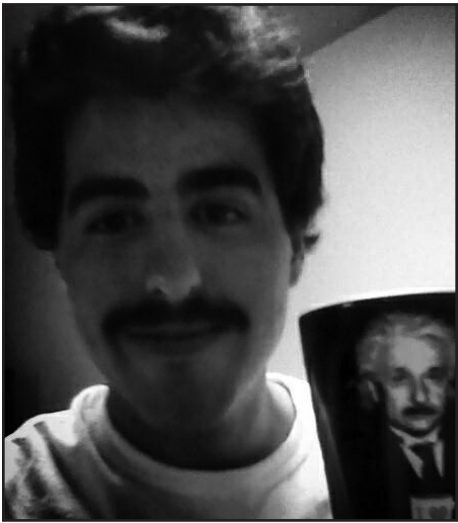
Center Stone
JEWELERS, INC.

736 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, SIOUX CENTER, IA
PHONE: 712-722-1601
WWW.CENTERSTONEJEWELERS.COM

Opinion

Juan

Surface Tension



Juan Pablo Benitez - Columnist

Dear American and international friends,

As the Fluids professor discussed a phenomenon called surface tension, I could not avoid thinking how the behavior of fluids is similar to the behaviors of groups at Dordt. Surface tension refers to the attractive forces between molecules of the same fluid over their surface; it describes a tendency of fluids to reduce their surface area to the minimum one possible. These forces do not allow other objects or different fluids to cross their surface and interact with them.

Every time I walked to the commons in my first two years at Dordt, I could observe surface tension manifested in groups of people. Each group was trying to reduce its surface area and sat close to each other. There was a table for the internationals, one for the football players, one for the engineers— who not only spent time together during homework but also during meals. Each one was composed of people with apparent similar interests and background. They shared things in common, and it seemed that the attempt of a different individual to enter the group would lead to rejection.

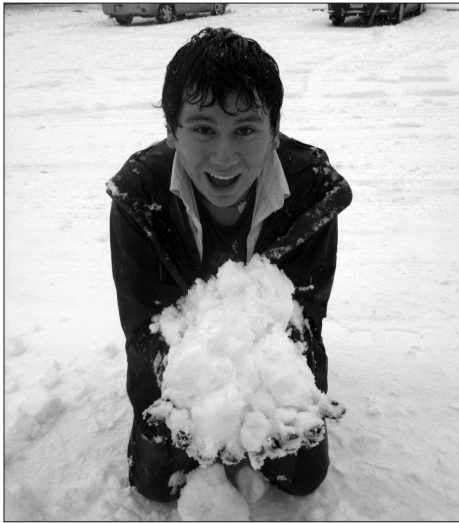
Dear American and international friends. Surface tension is a fallacy, it is only superficial and external, as its name states, and the problem lies in the surface. You share a lot more in common than what you think, independently of your background, hobbies, appearance and major. I used to believe this fallacy. I used to believe that I was so different that I could not relate with those that were different from me. But I was wrong. As I deliberately faced my fear, I met people who I thought I would never be able to relate with and they turned out to become my best friends.

Dear American and international friends, please allow yourselves to relate with that stranger and distinct individual who is sitting in the other table .Do not be intimidated by a group of people who are different than you— they are just strangers until you meet them. The first questions and conversations will indeed reflect the current tension, you won't be sure of what to ask or what to say. But do it anyways, someone has to start the dialogue, and if that means that you have to be the one, do it. Do not hesitate, just ask the questions you have; people are usually willing to respond.

Surface tension can't stand against persistence, its resistance does not last for too long. Immerse yourself deeper than the surface, get to know people's aspirations, dreams, character, values, passions and you will acknowledge your common humanity—something that can transcend physical, cultural, political and ethnical boundaries.

Juan Pablo Benitez Gonzalez

Narayan's Knowledge



Narayan N   ez Bland  n - Columnist

Many events have marked this year in the United States. The most recent of such events include Eric Garner being choked to death by a police officer, the shooting and protests in Ferguson and the negative reaction from many U.S. citizens towards President Obama's immigration reform. The last two mentioned events, however, will certainly be inscribed in the history textbooks.

It might sound a bit ignorant coming from me, but, as a citizen of a third world country, I had never thought that incidents and events of such magnitude could ever occur to a developed nation like the United States even though I know all countries face different levels of problems. I expected financial crises, urban pollution, and crime to be the leading socioeconomic issues in the United States. I had never thought that hatred, racism, inequality and ignorance would be part of list of leading problem in the country.

I would like to clarify that I am nor writing this column as a way to denigrate the United States, but rather to express my concern on the specific issues occurring in this nation. Other countries around the world talk about the grandeur of the United States, yet the circumstances here demonstrate the opposite.

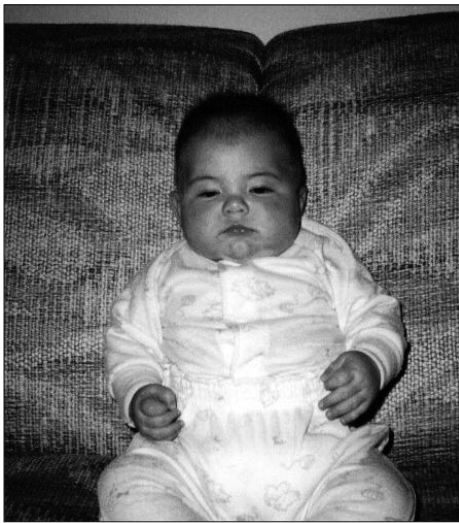
News media bombard us with many negative things occurring in this nation, and I only hear a few students and elders talk about it. Is it because there is too much media flowing into our minds that we cannot process adequately the present circumstances or is it because we simply prefer to ignore what ruins our 'perfect world'?

While reading the news and comments responding to online news posts, I was shocked and disgusted by the amount of hatred that people had toward specific groups of people. Certainly, such comments were not the ones I expected coming from the citizens of the first world.

The comments that shocked me the most were the ones that I read regarding the immigration reform. As an immigrant and foreigner, I felt hurt to read the amount of hatred that exists regarding the Hispanic population. They were accused of stealing the American jobs and of corrupting the entire American style of living. Furthermore, many people condemned the Hispanics with words that I would not be able to repeat. I know that many of those people who wrote horrendous comments probably do not know Christ, but how about the few that know Christ? Is there no empathy, compassion, and understanding anymore in the hearts of some Christians and non-Christians?

I have learned over the four years of residency here in the United States that being different is not easy. If you differ in race, origin, thought, and habits from the majority, life will be a bit hard. Although a few will understand who you are and where you come from, many others might probably attack you.

The Kaiser has spoken



Megan Kaiser - Columnist

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:

Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

We all know this song. At least, I think we all know this song. If my true love ever tries to send me anything bird related on Christmas, I will be ticked. Now, I have good reason for this. Before I get called the "12 Days of Christmas Scrooge," hold your horses, or your hens. Whatever. This is the story of a young girl and a terrible experience with birds.

In the summer of my sophomore year of high school, I had a specific running route that I ran at same time every day. I would run past a woodsy area (that woodsy area being 12 extremely dead trees that just hung out together) and in this area lived two angry birds. I have no idea what type of birds they were and I don't care. As the summer progressed, these birds would fly overhead, continuing to get closer and closer to my skull as the days went on. Of course I never made anything of it. My music was my concern, plus being on the lookout for farm machinery that would roam the streets of my village and potentially wreck me. Finally, towards the end of the summer, these birds snapped. I don't know what I ever did to them. I never did anything to 'threaten' these birds of fury. I ran past their territory (I wish they just would have asked for my lunch money instead) and Feathers of Terror one and two were in my hair.

I tell you what. I was never a sprinter. I was a long-distance kid. I could run for an hour, but I can't sprint to save my life. However, that was the fastest I have ever ran in my life. I sprinted past Main Street, which basically consisted of six different businesses, and took a straight shot to my house. I ran into that house and immediately burst into tears. Lame right? So I did what anyone would do after a situation like that. I called my mom. At this point I am bawling. Once I got ahold of her she started freaking out wondering if I was ok. These were my exact words. "Mom... (sob)... I just got attacked (sob)... by birds." Five seconds of silence and then came a huge burst of laughter from the other end of the line. Moral of the story is that if birds ever attack you, your mom probably won't have any sympathy for you and neither will your 70-year-old neighbors. You will fear birds for the following five years. Bird mascots will traumatize you. You may never be normal again.

That's why I have beef with certain lines in the song "12 Days of Christmas." Don't confuse my hate of birds with me being a holiday grump. That's not the case. If you want to chill out with turtledoves and geese, I won't be joining your crew, unless you get matching shirts. Then I'll think about it. Weather they are dancers, baseball players, teachers, moms or dads, they are talented, they are gifted, they are important, and above all, they are children of God. Just like you and me.

Jerusha Yerusha: Venting with Style



Jerusha Pimentel - Columnist

Over Thanksgiving break, I had the rare opportunity to visit Ferguson for a day and night, where I joined one of the numerous peaceful protests against police brutality led by civilians each day. But what I want to talk about right now doesn't so much concern the events occurring in Ferguson as it does concern something that struck me while I was glancing around the circle of us protestors who were linking arms and praying (yes, I peeked) before the protest. This thing stood out to me so clearly that I have not been able to since shake it off, and that is this: there is something very wrong with the lack of love, support, and identifying going on between members of the body of Christ. Now, I know the term "body of Christ" is an idea usually thrown around where we Christians grudgingly agree that even though other denominations are kind of weird and not quite as correct as ours, God still loves them and therefore they are probably the toenail or the nose hair part of the body, whereas we are the brain and eyes and the muscles, or something along that line...but really, to identify ourselves as a part of the body means we are all claiming to have the Holy Spirit within us, and belong to the body/family of others who hold the same spirit. We refer to ourselves as God's sons and daughters because that's what He refers to us as when we proclaim our faith in his son. So, then, why is it that most of us more quickly identify ourselves with our native ethnic group than we do as being brothers and sisters of other believers in Christ? We'd feel more comfortable and connected with a stranger who shared the same skin color with us than we would with another stranger who we knew to be believer in Christ but had different skin color and was from a different culture than our own. Why?

Now, I know it is natural to feel most comfortable with those who look like you that you have been raised around—especially if you have generally always lived around other people of your same race. But, I would argue that we have often failed to love one another as Christ has loves us--just as he has commanded--when it comes to loving other believers outside our race and culture. Cause sure, we will care for those in our own community—those within our same race, who look like us and sound like us and live like us and worship like us. But what about other believers who look not only different from us but whose appearance and culture seem "foreign" to us? That spirit within them is the very spirit residing within us; it is the only reason we both are able to call God "father". When God looks down on earth and sees the millions of those who believe him Him, He does not separate them in his mind: black and white, Chinese and Mexican, Reformed or Catholic. He sees us as his creation being restored to Him by His sacred spirit. We are, literally and spiritually, brothers and sisters--and yet we do not act like it. Why?

Sports

Men’s Basketball: Can they make it four?

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

The past three seasons have been something special for Dordt Defender men’s basketball, reaching the NAIA national tournament in Point Lookout, MO each season; this year, Dordt tries to make it four years straight for the first time in school history.

Dordt College is accustomed to success on the hardwood, particularly of late. These past three seasons have each ended in a trip to the national tournament, a feat impressive on its own. Dordt’s 4-3 in the tournament the past three seasons, and has reached the quarterfinals twice during the stretch.

Dordt’s all ready made school history by making the national tournament the past three seasons. Before the 2011-12 season, Dordt made the national tournament only twice, during the 1987-88 and 2004-05 seasons; now they sit on a three-season streak.

But even with recent success, nothing is handed to Dordt. Many of the players on those past Dordt squads have graduated, and a young team has taken their place. And with every young team, there are ups and downs.

“This team plays very hard,” said Dordt

head coach Ross Douma. “We’re unselfish and we move the ball well, and these guys genuinely and sincerely like each other; our chemistry is very good. But, we need to be a better team defensively on the perimeter, and we need to do a better job of taking care of the ball. Our turnover rate is too high, and we’re a young team, so some inexperience is going to show on certain nights.”

Take Dordt’s game at Briar Cliff on December 3 for example. The Defenders had a 53-45 lead with 13:05 left in the second half. After a couple Defender turnovers, Briar Cliff exploded for a 19-1 run to grab a hold of the game and ease to the finish. On the night, the Defenders gave up 13 three-pointers and turned the ball over 24 times.

“We will need to develop a consistent mindset of toughness,” said Dordt assistant coach Derek Keizer. “Once we establish that consistency, we will be in good position to fight each night for a win—whether that’s on the road or in the DeWitt. This young team will keep growing together.

To establish that consistency, the Defenders have plenty to work on, but it is something that can be accomplished.

“It’s going to take repetition; repetition of the fundamentals,” Douma said. “We’ll



continue to set out each day to improve and enjoy the process.”

Even if the Defenders are unable to make the national tournament for a fourth straight season, the season is not lost.

“Some of my best memories from previous seasons are ones that happen throughout the year, not just at Nationals,” Douma said. “It’s about balance, making it a meaningful five-month experience rather than a 10-day experience.”

With young teams, ups and downs are common. Each night will test the internal fortitude of this Defender squad, but with each game comes more experience, one of the most important components for good basketball play. One thing is certain, Dordt has the ability to play competitively, and as the year goes on, they will only get better.

Dordt Cross Country performs at nationals

Aaron Ladzinski - Staff Writer

After taking the GPAC for the 3rd consecutive year, Dordt’s cross country team had an excellent year, ending it at the NAIA nationals in Kansas. The entire women’s team qualified for the event with their 1st place finish while the men send two individual members.

The women’s team finished 5th overall in the national event. The team had 235 points overall, but missed receiving the lowest score, which is the goal for cross country teams. The winner of the day was a team from British Columbia, receiving only 43 points.

Kayla Byl was the top runner for Dordt, earning an All-American recognition. Byl finished in the top 30, with her official placing landing at 24th overall. Her time was 18:28. The second runner behind her for Dordt was Lauren Opp, with a time of 18:44, followed Abby De Vries with a time of 19:00.

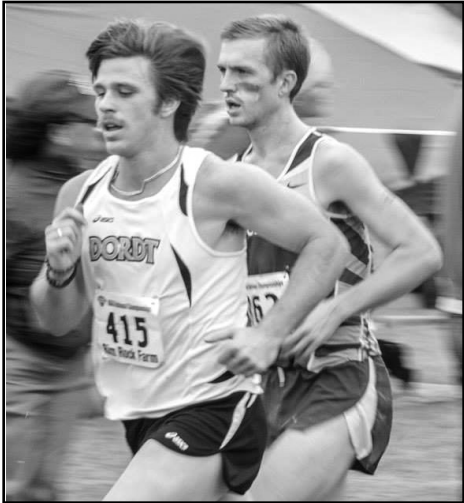
The competition was stiff and Dordt performed well. “The field was large and tough as they keep the pace up during race,” said runner Abby De Vries. “It was a great time and next year we’re coming back even better.”

Lauren Opp is a senior at Dordt and has watched the team develop. The bond that has developed between team members has become important for all involved.

“We are a family, to make a short description of the team. We laugh together, we cry together, suffer together and just live life together. The team has been a tremendous support system for me all these years at Dordt.”

Nick Vanderkooi and Stephan McNamara represented Dordt’s men’s team. The two made it there by qualifying during the GPAC race. Vanderkooi finished 143rd of 310 runners. Vanderkooi’s official time was 26:48 for the 8,000 meter race. McNamara finished 164th with a time of 26:59. This was Vanderkooi’s second appearance at the event. Last year Vander Kooi finished in 127th place with a time of 26:10.

The teams hope to rebound next year, with both returning runners, and strong new recruits. First, however, the majority of the cross country team will join the track team for the spring semester and hope to bring the Defenders some hardware in the spring. Even though the majority of the team will remain long distance runners, some may try sprints as well.



Diamond Staff 2014-2015

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Co-Editors:
Hannah DeVries
Jeremy Vreeken | Staff Adviser:
Derrick Vander Waal | Haley Mulder
Megan Kaiser
Lauren Bird
Narayan Núñez Blandón
Lydia Marcus
Megan DeGraaf
Aaron Ladzinski
Jon Janssen |
| Copy Editing Staff:
Lydia Marcus
Lauren Brid
Megan Kaiser
Meagan DeGraaf
Eric Rowe
Jerusha Pimentel
Jon Janssen | Sports Editors:
Justin Pastoor | |
| Layout Designer:
Justin Pastoor | Columnists:
Megan Kaiser
Juan Benitez
Jerusha Pimentel
Haley Mulder | Photographers:
Megan Kaiser
Kyle Fosse
Eli Anderson |
| | Staff Writers:
Christian Zylstra
Eric Rowe | |

Arts and Entertainment

Dordt/Northwestern student-juried art show

Lauren Bird- Staff Writer

A new installation of art has recently been added to the campus center art gallery. Artwork from Dordt and Northwestern students are being displayed in the annual combined student art show.

Each year, Dordt and Northwestern take turns hosting this art show, and the art students from each school get together and choose pieces from the other school to display in the show. This year, the fifteenth year of the show, twelve Dordt students have their pieces on display.

Dordt senior Bridget Rowe, who has some pieces of her art on display, also served as a juror for the show, choosing pieces from Northwestern students and giving them feedback on their work.

“This is a great way to get a mix of Dordt and Northwestern students together and not be rivals. We can find aesthetic themes in the artwork from each school,” said Rowe.

David Versluis, a Dordt art professor, also believes that this show holds a lot of potential to build a community between the two schools.

“While this show is interestingly competitive, it’s also indicative of the relational attitudes between two Christian colleges that are in fairly close proximity to each other. As a result, this show helps build community by mixing artwork from both schools. It is more community service-focused and less about self-centric art-making,” said Versluis.

According to Versluis and some Dordt art students, there is much more to this show than meets the eye. Rebekah Dykhuizen, a senior graphic design major, helped place all the selected pieces in the gallery.

“It’s neat to see what our peers in other schools are doing. Each school seems to have a distinct style, since we’re not trained in the same facilities. It was really cool to place the pieces in the gallery and put them together in



Photo by Eli Anderson

a way that makes sense,” said Dykhuizen.

Versluis also believes that this art show is beneficial to both the students involved and to the viewers who come to see the art.

“This is an experience for students from both schools to gather in community to review the artwork of their peers, which has great value. Viewers can discover the variety of visual art being generated by our students and see how the art has the technical skill and conceptual capacity that

speaks to them,” said Versluis.

The gallery in the Campus Center, located near the Eckhardt Lounge, is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The pieces will be displayed until January 4. Next year, the show will be held at Northwestern College. While pieces from art studio classes are usually submitted, it is an open show that anyone can enter. Several non-art major students have some of their pieces currently on display.

Sound of Music Sing-a-long fundraiser

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On Saturday night, members of the Dordt student body and Sioux Center community came together to raise money for the concert choir’s tour of the Netherlands in the spring and to enjoy a night of singing along with Rodger and Hammerstein’s The Sound of Music.

Many people of all ages showed up to watch the movie in the BJ Haan auditorium, and some even came in costume. There was a suggested donation of five dollars to help fund the concert choir’s trip, and CDs of the choir’s music were also sold.

Ben Kornelis, director of the concert choir, believes that this sing-a-long is an interesting way to raise funds for the trip.

“I’ve heard about it being done in other cities. I’d like to try not to do fundraisers like bake sales or selling wrapping paper, but rather to do things related to who we are as a group. The sing-a-long was a great way to do that. It’s related to choir and also related to Europe, where we will be touring,” said Kornelis.

On the night of the sing-a-long, Kornelis appeared on stage dressed as a nun to

introduce the movie, much to the delight of the audience. Jon Hageman, a member of the concert choir, especially appreciated the costume.

“I thought it was hilarious. I have major respect for him after that. It showed that he was very on board and dedicated to the choir, though I don’t think I want to see it again,” said Hageman.

The audience was encouraged to sing along loudly to the nearly three-hour movie, and many did. Chris Geels, another member of the concert choir, found himself sharing many laughs with his fellow audience members.

“I enjoyed re-watching the movie with a group of people I haven’t seen it with before. I never realized how many wonderful jokes there are in it. I would love to see this happen many more times with different movies using classic musicals. I think this was pretty well received,” said Geels.

This event helped bring light to the aspects of the choir’s tour next semester. Kornelis and the choir members are excited to have this opportunity to travel.

“Some of the spaces we will be visiting are very historical. In fact, one church we will sing at will be celebrating their millenium, which is a pretty big deal. The buildings we will sing in tell so much history and are wonderful spaces acoustically. I think the students are very excited and nervous to go and to come up with the money needed for the trip,” said Kornelis.

For those who were not able to come to the sing-a-long or for those who still want to support the choir in other ways, the choir is selling CDs of their music: one of Christmas music and one of their “greatest hits.” These CDs are \$15 each and can be purchased through the Dordt music department.



It’s A Wonderful Life: A live radio play

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

From a moving picture that has captivated audiences for 68 years, the story of George Bailey and his life in Bedford Falls continues to brighten the holiday season as a Dordt Theatre production. “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” opens in the New World Theatre on campus on December 11.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” is directed by Dordt senior, Jon Hageman. Hageman was drawn to the sentiment of the script.

“It’s a Christmas tradition for so many people,” Hageman said. “I am excited to see audiences come in, sit down and enjoy a favorite story in a way you haven’t experienced before.”

The play is set in a New York radio company building in 1946. Cast members play voice actors presenting a dramatic piece for the radio. This production will feature live sound reproduction to emulate that aspect of radio performances from the last century.

“It bridges the gap between theatre we are used to seeing and old radio shows,” Hageman said.

The format of a radio play presents many unique limitations for the actors.

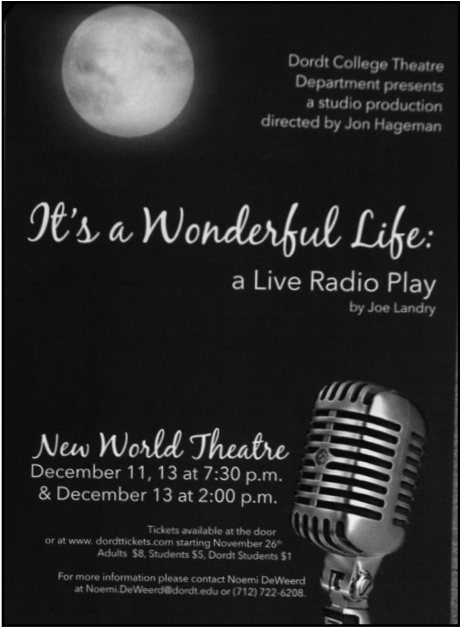
“The story plays out in our imaginations,” Hageman said. “The way that they say lines helps us envision the show in our minds.”

The actors spend their time waiting to go on air and then being tied to the microphone. Cast member Annie Sears is one the people responsible for bringing the audience into the story.

“A lot of work is vocal rather than physical,” Sears said. “We do a lot of improv as our radio show characters.”

Sophomore, Kyle Fosse, plays the foley artist for the show. He provides iconic and recognizable sounds to accompany the live dialogue. The sounds are reproduced on the stage as they would be for a 1940’s radio show.

“I have to pay attention to what actors are doing,” Fosse said. “I keep in time with them and make sure the sounds come at the right time.”



Reproducing the sound of footsteps with a pair of shoes is particularly difficult, Fosse said.

“You have to keep the sound effects in mind,” Sears said. “They are like lines. You need to be sure you aren’t stepping on them.”

Hageman was impressed by the way his cast picked up the unique acting challenge of expressing through the lines and limited action.

“They took to it early,” Hageman said. “I expected it to be a bigger challenge than it turned out to be.”

Though he knew of the classic Christmas movie, Hageman didn’t watch it until after starting work on the production. He didn’t want the movie to influence his directing.

Two of his actors, Peter Rexford and Alex McDonald, shared what Hageman brought to the rehearsals.

“He does a good job of encouraging us to work on our characters individually,” Rexford said.

“He gives you free reign to explore,” McDonald said. “But tells you what he wants.”

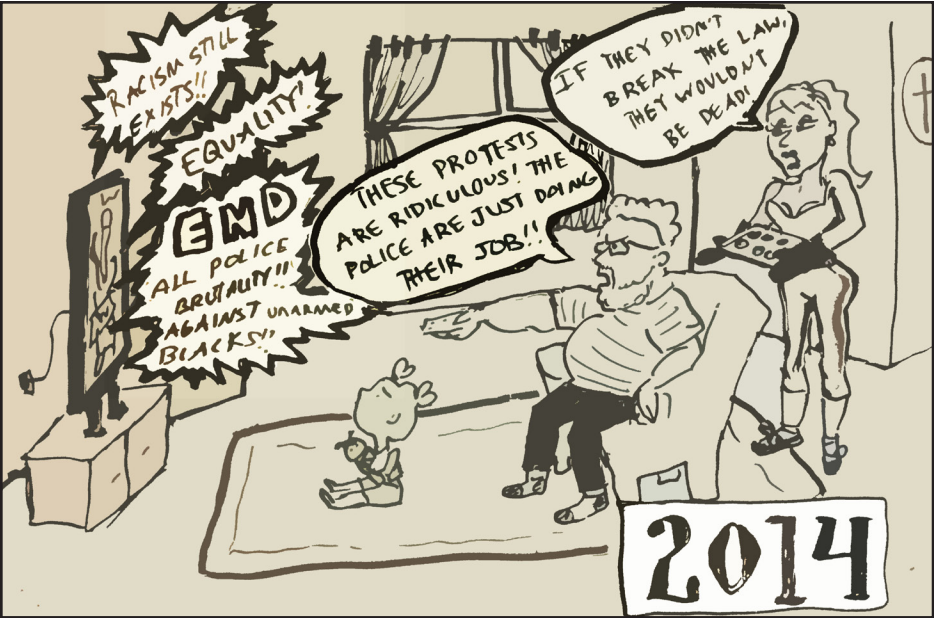
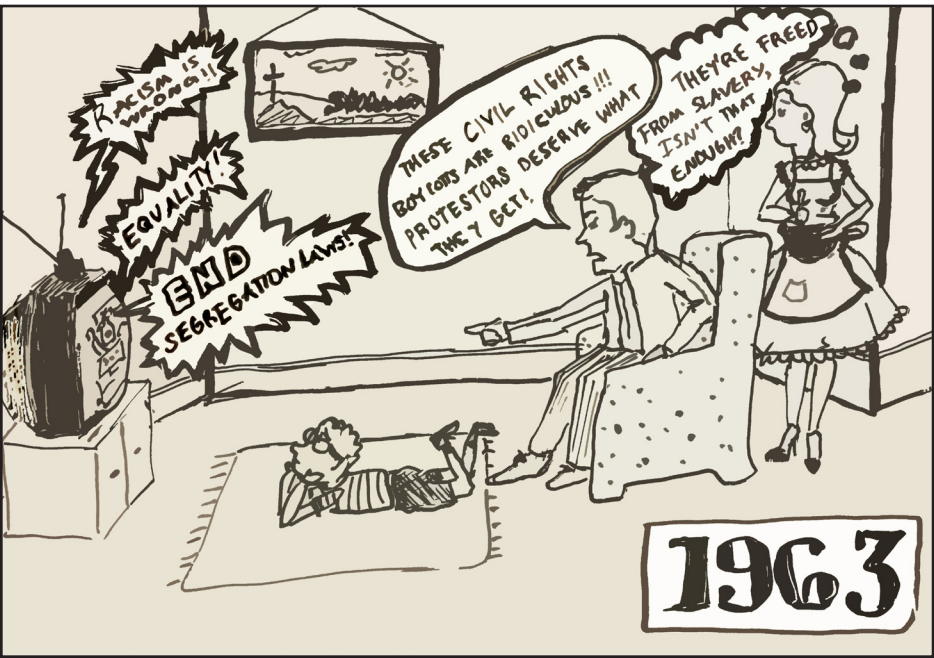
“It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” will be showing at 7:30 p.m. on December 11th and 13th, and at 2:00 p.m. on the 13th.

The Back Page



Cartoon

By Jerusha Pimentel



Funny how things change

Dordt College Secret Admirers hits Facebook

Amanda Oberman - Guest Writer

From compliments to crushes to declarations of love, the Dordt Secret Admirers Facebook page passes on love from one anonymous person to another.

The Dordt Secret Admirers page gained over 700 likes a within the first week after it was founded.

“I think it’s adorable, especially with YikYak around,” said Dordt junior Kathleen Tazelaar. YikYak, an app for phones and tablets, allows people to share their thoughts anonymously. Users often criticize the app’s content for its degrading or overly dramatic posts.

The Dordt Secret Admirers administrators, who wish to remain anonymous to keep posters from feeling uncomfortable, felt inspired by similar pages other colleges have made, and felt it would be fun for Dordt as well. Unlike other college admirer pages, most posts start with “Dear” and end with “Sincerely.”

Some posts are specific, mentioning the person of their admiration in the introduction of the letter.

“We thought this would be a good way to make people’s days,” one admin said.

The Dordt Secret Admirer page’s popularity started with friend requests and the word spread like wildfire. While some of the first posts were by the admins themselves, with the overnight popularity, their own posts were no longer needed. Yet they still converse with the page’s users.

“I thinks it is fun, but students should be careful how they approach it,” senior Eli Anderson said. “People could get hurt if they take some comments too seriously. Otherwise, I personally enjoy scrolling through and chuckling from time to time.”

Multiple posts are people confessing their feelings and admitting they are too scared to approach the person they admire. In response to the frightened admirers, the admins wrote a post emphasizing that dating should be a less stressful activity. Dating, according to the admins, should be a fun time for getting to know each other without the pressure of marriage.

“I think it’s a wonderful way for people to share and spread kindness. Some people think that we should be saying the things we post to people in person, but for someone like me who already tries to be kind in person, Dordt Secret Admirers is one more way that the kindness can be spread,” junior Lauren Bird said.



Top Ten Christmas Films

- #1 It’s A Wonderful Life (1946)
- #2 A Christmas Story (1983)
- #3 Arthur Christmas (2011)
- #4 Die Hard (1988)
- #5 Home Alone (1990)
- #6 Elf (2003)
- #7 The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
- #8 How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)
- #9 Miracle on 34th Street (1994)
- #10 The Polar Express (2004)

Feature Photo



Above: Hanna Wagenaar (left) and Chelsey Garcia (right)